



P21410.A

#3 S.W.H. 9/17/02 3739

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Kiyoshi YAMAMOTO

Group Art Unit: 3739

Appln. No. : 10/020,292

Filed : December 18, 2001

For : ELECTRONIC ENDOSCOPE WITH THREE-DIMENSIONAL
IMAGE CAPTURING DEVICE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

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Pursuant to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.56 and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97 and 1.98, the following information is brought to the attention of the Examiner assigned to the above-referenced application.

Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. 5-211988, published August 24, 1993, as well as an English language translation;

An article entitled "Design and Development of a Multi-detecting Two-dimensional Ranging Sensor" by S. Christie et al., Measurement Science and Technology, volume 6, pages 1301-1308, 1995;

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Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 4-351074, to FUJI SHASHIN FILM KABUSHIKI KAISHA, published December 4, 1992, as well as an English language translation;

Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. 7-110381 to KABUSHIKI KAISHA WAKOMU, published April 25, 1995, as well as an English language translation;

Japanese Laid-Open Utility Model Publication No. 7-6781, to RIZUMU TOKEI KOUGYO KABUSHIKI KAISYA, published January 31, 1995, as well as an English language translation;

International Publication W.O. 97/01111 to YAHAV et al., published January 9, 1997;

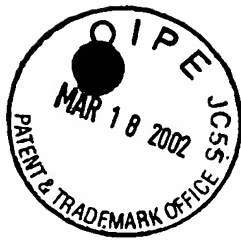
An article entitled "Endoscope Technology", by SHOKABO, Popular Science 204, pages 142-148, discussed at page 1 of the specification. An English language translation is enclosed;

U.S. Patent No. 5,081,530 to MEDINA, issued January 14, 1992.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the above materials and cite the patent documents and enclosed translations. Copies of the above-noted documents are attached and have been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the form to the Applicant with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

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Applicant also brings to the Examiner's attention the following copending and commonly assigned patent application:

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/315,821 to AOKI et al., filed May 21, 1999, and entitled "Three Dimensional Image Capturing Device";

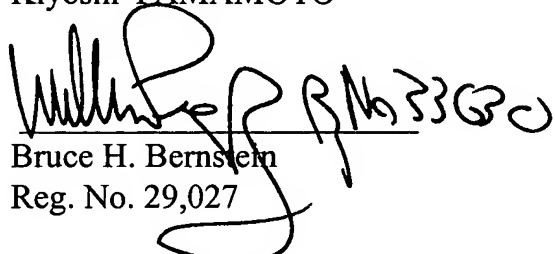
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/745,797 to SEO, filed December 26, 2000, and entitled "Three-Dimensional Image Capturing Device"; and

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/343,534 to AOKI, filed June 30, 1999, and entitled "Image Capturing Device".

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(iii), a copy of each of the above-noted patent applications, as filed, is attached hereto.

If there should be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
Kiyoshi YAMAMOTO


Bruce H. Bernstein
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March 18, 2002
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U.S. Department of Commerce
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P21410Serial No.
10/020,292INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Applicant
Kiyoshi YAMAMOTOFiling Date
December 18, 2001Group
3739

PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	5 0 8 1 5 3 0	01/14/92	MEDINA			

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
5 - 2 1 1 9 8 8	08/24/93	JAPAN			X
4 - 3 5 1 0 7 4	12/04/92	JAPAN			X
7 - 1 1 0 3 8 1	04/25/95	JAPAN			X
7 - 6 7 8 1	01/31/95	JAPAN			X
9 7 / 0 1 1 1 1	01/09/97	W.I.P.O.			

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

1	Article entitled "Design and Development of a Multi-detecting Two-dimensional Ranging Sensor" by S. Christie et al., Measurement Science and Technology, volume 6, pages 1301-1308, 1995.
2	Article entitled "Endoscope Technology", by SHOKABO, Popular Science 204, pages 142-148, with English language translation.

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.